

**Bacon's Rebellion:
Nathaniel Bacon: Hero or villain?**

Directions: Decide whether each of the following is a plus (+) in Bacon's favor or a negative (-) strike against him. Write a + or a - next to each statement below.

**Keep in mind History's Habits of Mind #3 – (...perceive past events and issues as they were experienced by the people at the time, to develop historical empathy as opposed to present mindedness.)*

1. _____ Bacon stood up to a government that did not adequately protect people on the frontier.
2. _____ Bacon attacked both friendly and hostile Indians.
3. _____ Bacon protested unfair taxation and corrupt practices by Berkeley's government.
4. _____ Bacon and his men destroyed Jamestown, the capital of Virginia, by burning it.
5. _____ Bacon spent little time at Council meetings. Apparently he did not try to reform the government from the inside.
6. _____ Bacon rallied 600 people to his cause, including more than 80 Blacks.
7. _____ Bacon's Rebellion encouraged disloyalty to the colonial government and England.
8. _____ Bacon was willing to stand up for people who were not rich, including former indentured servants and slaves.
9. _____ Bacon's friends encouraged him to lead them in fighting the Indian tribes.
10. _____ Bacon knew that fighting the Indians without the governor's authority was against colonial law.
11. _____ Bacon was denied a commission to fight the Indians until Berkeley was coerced.
12. _____ Bacon resumed his rebellion after the governor had publicly forgiven him.
13. _____ Bacon aggravated existing rivalries between the rich and less privileged classes.

What other information would you like to have in order to make a judgment? Explain.

Based on the above, make an assertion as to whether Bacon was the protagonist or antagonist in the story. _____

What *Vital Theme* could be applied to the story of Bacon's rebellion? Explain.
